BOROUGH OF COLNE.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1895,

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

W. LYONS LOVETT.

20th February, 1896.

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COLNE.

The Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year ending December 31st, 1895.

The Chairman and Sanitary Committee.

Gentlemen,

During the year 1895 there were 403 deaths from all causes (215 males, 188 females). Calculated on a population of 20,000 for the middle of the year, this gives an annual death-rate of 20·15 per 1000. The death-rates for the three previous years were: 1892, 14·7; 1893, 15·32; 1894, 15·9.

As will be seen from the appended Tables, there were 186 deaths among children under 5 years of age, and 217 deaths among those over that age, the oldest being 86 years.

Of the 186 children under 5 years old, there were 114 deaths in the first year of life, 40 in the second year, 16 in the third year, 9 in the fourth year, and 7 in the fifth year. The deaths among the older people were distributed as follows:—

17	deaths	between	5 years	and	15	years
13	,,	,,	15	,,	25	,,
124	,,	,,	25	,,	65	,,
48	,,	,,	65	,,	75	,,
14	,,	,,	75	,,	85	,,
1	,,	over	85			

There were 22 deaths from Heart Disease, 39 from Bronchitis, 14 Apoplexy, 13 Diarrhœa, 52 Pneumonia, 8 Convulsions, 8 Cinhoris of Liver, 10 Senile Decay, 23 Inquest cases, 16 Digestive Organs, 8 Scarlet Fever, 36 Debility, 6 Confinement, 9 Premature Birth, 6 Cancer, 8 Influenza, 6 Typhoid Fever, 9 Whooping Cough, 4 Membranous Croup, 1 Measles, 1 Erysipelas, the rest from various causes.

Of the 186 children under 5 years of age, 14 died from Bronchitis, 33 Pneumonia, 24 Diarrhœa, 8 Convulsions, 8 Scarlet Fever, 32 Debility, 8 Inquest cases, 9 Premature Birth, 15 Digestive Organs, 9 Whooping Cough, 3 Membranous Croup, 1 Measles, the rest from various causes.

The average age at death was 27·2 years.

During the year there were 648 births (349 males, 299 females); 21 males 16 females being illegitimate. The birth-rate was 32·4 per 1000. Out of every 1000 children born 175·8 died under one year.

There were 250 cases notified under the Infectious Diseases Act, which gives a Zymotic rate of 12·5 per 1000, viz: 5 Membranous Croup, 3 Puerperal Fever, 21 Typhoid Fever, 192 Scarlet Fever, 29 Erysipelas. January, 43; February, 22; March, 13; April, 10; May, 29; June, 25; July, 25; August, 14; September, 33; October, 15; November, 13; December, 8.

There were 28 deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases, which gives a death-rate of 1·4 per 1000.

6 Typhoid Fever, 8 Scarlet Fever, 9 Whooping Cough, 4 Membranous Croup, 1 Measles.

Membranous Croup.—There were 5 cases notified; 1 in June, 1 in August, 2 in October, and 1 in November. 4 cases died.

Typhoid Fever.—There were 21 cases with 6 deaths, viz: January, 1; February, 1; May, 3; July, 2; August, 1; September, 8; October, 1; November, 2; December, 2. This disease has been present nearly all this year. In one family there were 4 cases. If the relatives of the patients used more disinfectants, and were more careful with the excreta, there would not have been so many cases.

Erysipelas.—There were 29 cases with one death, which was due to the complications. January, 3; March, 1; April, 3; May, 2; June, 2; July, 3; August, 1; September, 5; October, 1; November, 5; December, 3.

I am glad to say we have had no case of Small-pox in the district, although it was prevalent in a bordering district.

Whooping Cough was very prevalent during the last quarter of the year, there being 9 deaths. I have no means of knowing the number of persons affected, as it is not a notified disease.

Scarlet Fever.—192 cases notified, with 8 deaths. This is equivalent to 9·6 per 1000 (which is an increase on last year, 155 cases with 3 deaths, 8 per 1000). January, 39; February, 21; March, 12; April, 7; May, 23; June, 20; July, 20; August, 10; September, 20; October, 12; November, 5; December, 3.

The majority of the cases were of a mild type, the cause of death in the 8 cases was throat affections. The houses were visited and the parents supplied with disinfectants for the body, the clothes, and the house, the people were cautioned against sending any of their children to school or allowing them to mix with other children for a term of six weeks. I am sorry to say a great many of the parents disregarded the notice, with the result that the disease spread to such an extent.

In February, a Public Library was opened, containing 2,950 Books. The Librarian (Mr. Crowther) states that during the eleven months there were 24,147 Books issued, this making a daily average of 105, the Borrowers numbering 1,485. Lending Libraries are a great source of spreading infection. To prevent this I cause the name and address of each case notified to be sent to the Librarian, so that any book in an infected house may be returned to the Sanitary Authority at the Town Hall for disinfecting, such book to be kept for a term of 6 weeks before being returned to the Library. I regret that the other Libraries in Colne cannot benefit by this system of disinfecting, and I should advise the Council to consider the advisability of taking over all private Lending Libraries, as much disease is spread by the carelessness of the borrowers in not disinfecting books before returning them to the Libraries.

During the year the Nuisance Inspector (Mr. Sugden) states there were 179 Notices served for existing nuisances, viz: 11 slopstone drains, 23 waterclosets blocked, 72 filthy premises, privies, and ashpits, 3 insufficient privy and ashpit accommodation, 13 blocked drains, 10 premises overcrowded, 7 smoke nuisances, 19 defective waterclosets, 21 miscellaneous nuisances.

18 privy middens have been altered to either pail or waste water closets.

The quantity of Refuse collected was 1,556 loads of excreta, and 6,256 loads of ashes.

I regret very much not being able to state the improvements in Colne during the year, as I have received no report from the Surveyor.

The rainfall during the year was 37·1 inches. Last year the rainfall was 41·6 inches, the maximum fall in November being 5·4 inches, and the minimum fall in February being 0·9 inches. The average rainfall per month was 3·11 inches.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. LYONS LOVETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

20th February, 1896.